



VIBRATIONS

THE OWASIPPE STAFF ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 9—FALL

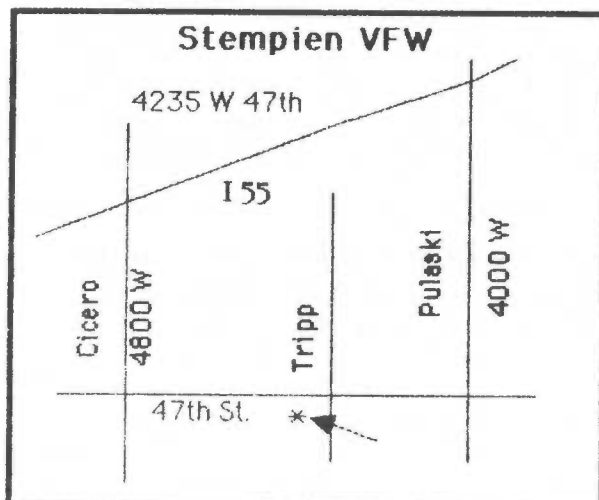
NOVEMBER, 1986

Pizza Nite Offers An Evening of Good Food and Good Conversation

Come join your friends for the traditional OSA Pizza Nite on Friday, Nov. 28, at the Ted Stempien VFW Hall, 4235 W. 47th Street in Chicago. For those who have not visited the Stempien Hall, it's the closest thing we can find to an Owasppe dining hall. Last year, many OSA members and guests visited with old friends, learned the latest news about Owasppe, and feasted on scrumptious, hot pizza. Mike Finnegan, chairman of this year's event, has planned a few special attractions for the evening. Unlike our annual banquet with its business meeting and special presentations, the pizza nite offers a casual, get-reacquainted evening of conversation and fellowship.

A cash bar will be available. Members will also have an opportunity to purchase OSA products and to review the plans for the second phase of our field sports range project. Advance registration is \$6.00 (\$7.00 at the door). You may reserve in advance by calling Mike Finnegan at 586-4260 or by mailing the reservation form included in this newsletter.

Stempien VFW



Christmas Party Set For Kiwanis



Santa passes a gift to an excited member of the Lowie family, as Jackie holds on.

Load the kids into the sleigh and head for the OSA Children's Holiday Party on **Sunday, December 14, 1-3 p.m.** Children will decorate the OSA tree, sing favorite Christmas carols, sample delicious Christmas cakes and cookies, and, of course, visit with the jolly, old elf himself. At our last holiday party, eighteen children shared in the festivities. This year, we hope even more can come to enjoy the surprises. Camp Kiwanis is located at 95th & Willow Springs Road. **Participants must R.S.V.P. by Dec. 8** to Ron and Mary Faye Pezdek, 387-9331.



The OSA Christmas party offers an afternoon of celebration with the jolly old elf himself.

President's Perspective

by Pat Monahan



In July, I toured Owasisippe as a member of the Council Camping Committee for the National Inspection. I thought I'd talk about two stops along my tour because they help to explain why Owasisippe enjoyed one of its finest summers in 1986.

I saw Project COPE for the first time, Owasisippe's high adventure program for boys fourteen and older (Leaders may also participate). The program itself was spectacular, combining human relations training with the challenge of climbing and repelling. One of the most impressive aspects of the program, however, was Mike Jensen, who coordinated it. As he described the program for his visitors, he demonstrated his enthusiasm for it, his deep commitment to its goals, and his sincere concern for the health and safety of its participants. I could not imagine a more exciting program at Owasisippe nor a more capable instructor.

I also stopped at the Blackhawk nature area, where I met Bill Vanberschot, who was in his second year on staff. He described his exciting program and his

innovative methods for involving scouts in their nature badges. I watched him work with several scouts, at the same time answering the questions of the inspection team. He seemed to manage the learning of scouts in his area effortlessly. When I left Owasisippe after that day, I was convinced that the '86 staff offered quality programs to its campers. The strength of Owasisippe continues to be its staff.

In the OSA we have always known that our purpose is linked with the activities of the present staff and that our future rests with them. We recognize a commitment to join our efforts with their efforts. In three ways this summer, the OSA demonstrated its continuing involvement in Owasisippe. More than twenty members of the present staff are members of our association. In each camp, in the Ad Center, at Maintenance, and at Food Prep our members continue to serve on the Owasisippe staff. In fact, two members of our Board of Directors were camp directors this summer. To this group we can add a number of volunteers who serve during the summer. Tony Krier spends more than five months at camp assisting the rangers. John Sanchez and Guy Gogliotti also worked for a few weeks as camp rangers. Glenn Roberts, Dave Schlichting, and Tom Crissey managed the business office. And Al Baldasty worked for two weeks as a commissioner at Blackhawk.

Perhaps most indicative of our involvement in Owasisippe is our membership efforts this summer, which resulted in thirty-one new OSA members. We also celebrated the field sports ranges at Owasisippe in a banquet, where more than fifty OSA members had an opportunity to meet and talk with sixty members of the camp staff. As we near the end of '86, I can say with confidence that our association has never enjoyed a closer bond with Owasisippe. In the months ahead, we hope to strengthen our bonds with the present Owasisippe staff.

Owasisippe Continues to Grow and Reorganize

by Glenn Roberts

While all of us know that Owasisippe is a large camp, few of us know how large. Fewer still know the history of land acquisition behind Owasisippe, the changes which have occurred in land holdings in recent years and the present plans for land acquisition and land sale. As coordinator of the land plan for Owasisippe, I would like to give you some of this information and let you know where we stand.

With the recent acquisition of five acres (where the Pack and Paddle foot bridge crosses Cleveland Creek), Owasisippe now owns approximately 7,020 acres. At no time has Owasisippe totalled 12,000 acres. Perhaps someone once figured that Owasisippe owned nineteen full sections in Whitehall and Blue Lake townships in Muskegon County and in Otto township in adjoining Oceana County. As a section of land totals 640 acres, the acreage would total 12,160. Owasisippe, however, has never owned a full section. In one section we own only 3.65 acres (on Big Blue Lake—part of the waterfront of Camp Blackhawk (Go!).

Owasippe property also includes 35,936 smaller lots in seven "additions" or subdivisions. Most of these lots are only 25' by 100' and nearly all of them were given away at "Land Shows" held in Chicago in the early 1900's. Less than 100 "taxpayers" continue to pay the annual taxes of about \$6 on these small lots. At some time prior to 1957, an organization known as the Fruitvale Development Association acquired thousands of these lots. They set up an arrangement for bulk payment of taxes. Back then, annual taxes were only sixty cents per lot.

In 1959, the Chicago Area Council was able to acquire thousands of these lots when the "Fruitvalers" ceased to exist. The Wolverine Club that also owned many of the lots and a number of hunting and fishing lodges also went out of existence about that time. Gustave Kopp, who was secretary of the club, came to work for the Council and for many years continued to contact owners to donate their lots or sell them for \$5 each. Later Bob Blew continued this work, and today I continue to solicit gifts of land and to acquire land for Owasippe through purchases or at County tax sales and State tax auctions.

The goal of the Council is to concentrate its ownership of land in a "core" area of about 6,000 acres. The center of this proposed core is at or near the Wolverine Chapel. As a start to reach this goal, the Council sold 1500 acres along the White River in Oceana County to the United States Forest Service, where it became part of the national forest. Scouts still have access to this property. The Council also sold nearly 800 acres to the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp to the south of the Reservation. Most recently, about 160 acres, partly north of Fruitvale Road, were sold to the Muskegon Y.M.C.A., increasing the size of their Camp Pandaluan on the north side of Big Blue Lake. In authorizing these sales, the Council recognized a need to sell to neighbors whose goals very much matched its own.

To further reduce Owasippe's size to 6,000 acres, the Council has also offered to sell 1650 acres west of the non-existent Automobile Road. These acres contain Owasippe Lake, the home of former camps West, Beard and Stuart. The Council first offered this land to the Forest Service, hoping to insure its usage for scouts. Unfortunately, the USDA does not want this property, either through purchase or exchange. The USDA now plans, in fact, to sell nearly all of its Whitehall and Blue Lake township holdings. At present the land remains for sale, though little interest has been shown in it.

The decision to reduce the Council's land holdings to 6,000 acres is to a large extent an economic one. Only 400 acres of Owasippe's more than 7,000 acres are exempt from taxation. Present taxes amount annually to almost \$83,000. Before the land sales described above, the tax bill exceeded \$108,000. Requested additional revision of assessments, further adjustments of exempted areas, and the eventual sale of unwanted or unused property could reduce the tax burden considerably.

Owasippe continues to receive "charitable donations" of small lots from taxpayers who learn that their property is essentially worthless. Because eight lots, or 20,000 square feet, are required for building purposes, individual lots have no resale value. Only a very few owners have more than one or two lots; almost none have eight or more. Thus, the Council is performing a valuable service to those fewer than 100 owners who continue to retain valueless property by assuming their small tax obligations and permitting them to gain a worthwhile tax benefit.

A few home-owners live within the core area. Most have been "good neighbors" for many years. We are most confident that in the not-too-distant future Owasippe will be a 99% solid 6,000 acres. Although 100% is not possible, we can continue to exist happily without that other 60-odd acres.

OSA to Assist in Promotion

In the '60's, not many of us worried about promotion of Owasippe. We did not need to. At Stuart, for instance, staffs crammed thirty-six tables into the dining hall (with end benches), each filled with eleven scouts and scouters. On occasion, they erected dining flies on the parade ground because the hall was simply overcrowded with more than 400 people. At West, Beard and Blackhawk the story was the same. Owasippe was the finest camp in the country, and the staff provided the finest scouting program; promotion took care of itself.

In recent years, the decline in youth membership in the Chicago Area Council along with many other factors has had a noticeable effect upon Owasippe. In 1979, the Camping Committee authorized the closing of Wolverine South. About that time, they also shortened the summer from eight camping periods to seven.

Not all responses to declining participation have been reductive. In fact, most have been constructive. New dining halls were built at Blackhawk and Carlen to attract scouts. Also, the quality of services at Owasippe has

remained high. It continues to provide full staffs in all its camps throughout the camping season. An extensive campership program has also been developed, much of it through the generosity of Henry Johnson, former President of the Council. In addition, the CAC has established an agreement with Calumet Council for Owasispe to act as their summer camp. The number of scouts attending Owasispe from Calumet has increased each year, and Owasispe has also benefited from the attendance of troops from other Councils.

Still, the news on scout participation at Owasispe is discouraging. Though Owasispe did not see declines in 1986, it is still running at far below capacity. In periods one and seven, for example, only about 400 boys attended camp. In the peak week, second period, only 71% of the facility was in use. For the summer, Owasispe ran at 55% capacity, some 4, 258 boy weeks.

Where camp promotion of Owasispe was once a gesture, an occasional meeting or two with scouters prior to the opening of camp, it is today an absolute necessity. The Order of the Arrow has always accepted as one of its responsibilities the promotion of camps, and arrow members from each chapter visit many troop meetings, often showing a slide presentation on Owasispe. In recent years, OSA members have visited District roundtables to discuss Owasispe. But clearly these efforts are not enough.

This year, a plan has been developed, under the leadership of Gordie Stiefel, to coordinate all the camp promotion efforts of the Council. The plan includes the development and training of three groups. One group is comprised of Arrow members, who through their chapters/districts will continue to visit troop meetings and talk with boys about camp. Another group is comprised of OSA members, who will also be assigned by district, to follow-up upon the efforts of the OA in communication with adult leaders. A third group is comprised of district camp promotion chairpersons, who will coordinate OA/OSA efforts and organize a group of experienced leaders who volunteer to adopt/assist other troops in planning for camp. A combined training of these groups will be held on December 6. Bill Morrison, Pat Monahan, Gary Hanson, John Kennedy, John Kosik, and Scott Reid are now developing a training curriculum.

The plan is a good one, but strongly needs the participation of past and present staff members to succeed. If you have some time, not a lot, but some, to commit to this much-needed activity, contact Mark Behnke (354-9181), who is coordinating the OSA's role in camp promotion. You may also assist promotion efforts by working through your OA chapter or by assisting your district camp promotion chairperson. Promotion of Owasispe is too important to let someone else do it. Pass the word: OWASIPPE IN '87.



The B. A. R. T. Excavation Team at the dig site:
(Left to Right) Jesse Landingham, Steve Mason, John Janis, Ken Gedgaud, Nivard Tuazon, Ed Kinnerk, Chris Kopec

Archeology Lives at Blackhawk

by Ed Kinnerk

In June of 1985 a new organization was formed by the Camp Blackhawk staff. Realizing the need for serious archeological excavation on the land surrounding Big Blue Lake, senior commissioner Ken Gedgaud gathered together a group of specialists. This is how B.A.R.T. (Blackhawk Archeological Research Team) was born.

Our first finds were minor ones: old beer cans, coins, Dan Beard's silverware, etc. Then, in mid-August, the team learned of a Blackhawk legend. Allegedly, the 1969 Blackhawk staff buried a time capsule somewhere on the old Blackhawk property. Acting on a senior team member's failing memory, an expedition headed out on a fine Saturday afternoon, arriving at the site of the old Blackhawk flagpole. According to legend, the capsule was buried in front of the pole.



Sheridan Nunn carefully opens the capsule.



Ken tests the ground in search of the legend.

Ground tests were made with Andy Jensen's metal detector, and digging began in several spots. The team discovered old nails and cans, but no time capsule. We dug deeper. After digging for an hour and a half, the team had excavated a hole of almost five feet, but had discovered nothing of consequence. Their high hopes falling, the team became skeptical. They passed the metal detector through the hole one last time. On one side of the hole, we picked up a positive reading. Digging in that direction, we unearthed the capsule.

The time capsule (a chlorine bucket weighted with an iron valve cover) was transported to Camp Blackhawk and opened with ceremony the following day by museum

curator Sheridan Nunn. The contents were mostly of paper, somewhat deteriorated, but still identifiable. A 1969 Blackhawk staff picture, staff name plates, a personalized Owasippe map and other cryptic memorabilia were laid out and examined. On the lid of the capsule was written "To be opened July 4, 1976" and on the inside of the lid "sealed August 31, 1969 by the Blackhawk Staff."

The capsule and its contents are kept in the Owasippe museum and can be viewed upon request. Members of B.A.R.T. are currently organizing this year's dig. Legend has it that there is an old birch bark canoe buried somewhere nearby.



Ken Gedgoud views the contents of the find.

Follow-Up

'86 Picnic Encourages Fellowship

They came by car, by van and by bicycle. They came from the inner regions of Chicago, from the far reaches of South Carolina, and from the uncharted vastness of Berwyn. They came, the OSA members and their families, to the annual picnic at Theodore Stone woods in La Grange, Illinois.

Why do they come every year? Well, there is the horseshoe tournament, along with the volleyball and softball games. There's the bratwurst and Italian sausage and the occasional beer to fend off the hunger and thirst. But most of all, there's friendship and fun.

Early in the day, the softball game was the main interest of the Peanut Gallery. (Twenty-five or so on a



Bruce Dreschel looks on as children scurry for prizes.

side isn't unusual, is it?) Later, the volleyball net was the center of activity (and occasional dispute). Throughout the afternoon, people participated in the events. The picnic was well attended, especially by members of the 1986 Owasippe staff, who came out to meet good friends and share news about Owasippe.

Children found much to do during the afternoon. Bubbles, helium balloons, ribbons for races, and watermelons, their day was filled with activity. Dry weather prior to the picnic made the conditions just right for the little ones, who continued to experience the

richness of the land as the day wore on. Some parents might have taken home the wrong child if we hadn't hosed 'em down.

Special thanks are extended to Bruce the Moose Dreschel, who coordinated the activities of the day. Attendance was good, and the good times were plentiful. Everyone had something to do and someone to enjoy it with. Our thanks go to every member who helped to organize the event and to all who came. "See you next year."

OSA Members Reunite At the 75th

The 75th anniversary reunion of former Owasippe staff members, held on the weekend of August 2-4, was a great success. More than sixty visitors enjoyed a full day of activities on the Owasippe properties.

Many former staff members toured the reservation, visiting its two newest dining halls and the two new field sports ranges built by the OSA. The ranges were open to OSA members, among them Jim Walters and Bill Bavirsha, who used the opportunity to sharpen their marksmanship skills. Bob Bavirsha and Chauncey, two members of the project committee, along with Roger Bevans, former ranger, and their families filmed scouts firing on the ranges. These films should be available for the annual meeting. Other OSA members saw our projects at Owasippe for the first time, including the shower house at Camp Wolverine. These projects stand as testimonies to the dedication of OSA members.

Other members enjoyed swimming in the Wolverine pool and boating on Wolverine lake. A few went tubing down the White River. Many spent a day relaxing on the beach at Owasippe Lake. Bill and Judy Lotter and John Pischl, in fact, found the beach so pleasant that they

rolled out sleeping bags and camped on it Saturday evening.

The question on Saturday was "Who else is here?" As visitors walked along the trails, they often met old friends. Everyone had a chance to all get together at a terrific banquet hosted by Hank Steggall at Ad Center. The banquet was a huge success, with more than sixty members of the present camp staff joining in celebration with OSA members and their families. Pat Monahan formally dedicated the ranges in a presentation to Bill Morrison, Owasippe's current Reservation Director. Bill thanked the OSA for their continuing efforts and highlighted some of the efforts of the OSA, in particular the efforts of the staff development team.

For a moment or two, we were again members of one family. Perhaps nowhere was the family more evident than at the campfire on Saturday night, where children had a chance to see and hear their parents in action. At times, OSA members commented on feeling strange when they realized that five or ten or fifteen years had passed since they last served on staff. Still, on Sunday, they all felt it much too soon to go home. Once again it seemed like "We just got here."

Project Update

Business is Booming at Ranges

At the 75th anniversary celebration in August at Owasippe, members of the OSA participated in formal dedication ceremonies of the Reservation's two newest field sports ranges. These ranges culminate the first phase of our two-year building project.

On August 3, OSA members viewed both ranges in operation, and some used the opportunity to sharpen

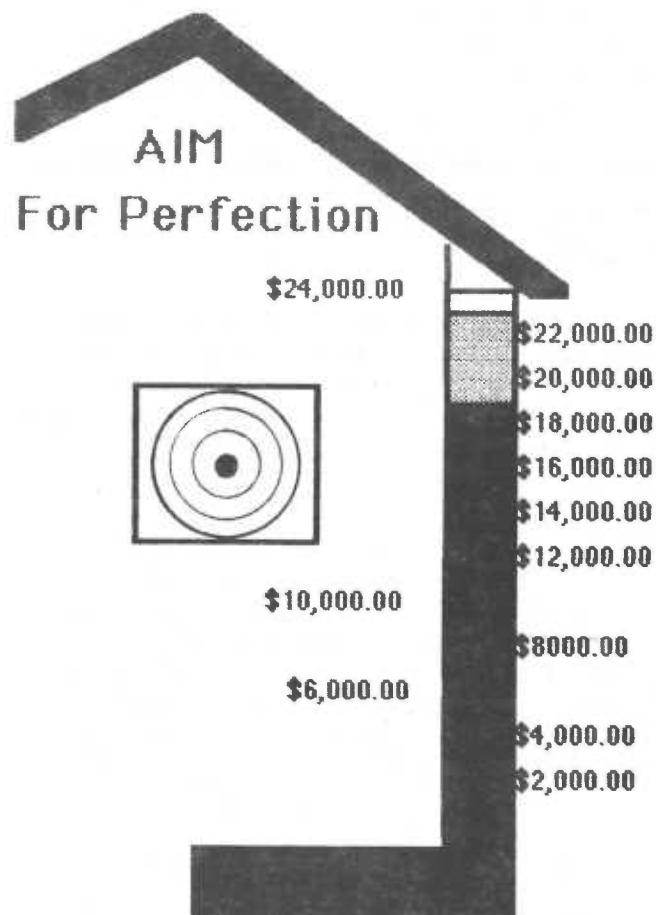
their marksmanship skills. Bill Lotter complained, of course, that his "modest" score resulted from a poor site, a long drive from Oklahoma, and deviant air currents. Right! Most gratifying was the chance to see scouts and scouters using the ranges. The ranges were in full operation, and usage throughout the summer has been heavy. One scoutmaster at Blackhawk praised the facility and indicated that he had joined the OSA during the summer because he believes in its efforts. The reservation no longer charges for ammunition, and

consequently field sports participation has increased dramatically. The OSA could not have picked a better year to highlight a program at Owasippe.

Our attention now turns to the second phase of our project, the renovation of the ranges at Camps Crown and Wolverine. The existing buildings (pavilions 10' by 40' by 7') are structurally sound. In the remodelling, the OSA will add a 16' by 20' pavilion, centered on the existing structure, forming a T. This shelter will house a 16' by 16' merit badge area and a 4' waiting area. The OSA will pour concrete under the entire structure and replace the existing deteriorated fencing. A locking storage cabinet, similar to the ones at Blackhawk and

Carlen, will also be added at one end of the existing structure.

Reinhard Plaut has again done the drawings for the ranges. Our project, still under the leadership of Bob Bavirsha and Tony Krier, now plans to pour concrete in October. Also in October, Bob and Tony have planned a few touch-up jobs on the ranges at Blackhawk and Carlen. The major construction of the Crown/Wolverine ranges will be completed at the Spring Fix-It. The project committee has the second phase of our project well in hand, and they look forward to the celebration in May when we complete the job we set out to do.



Project Enters Second Phase

Plans have already been developed to rennovate the ranges at Camps Wolverine and Robert Crown. We need only \$1000.00 more in pledges to reach our goal. The project committee also encourages those members who have not redeemed pledges to do so soon. Members who make donations to the project are eligible to receive premiums. Contributors of \$250.00 or more will receive an attractive OSA jacket as well as an OSA cap (\$100.00) and OSA travel mug (\$50.00). Donors of \$500.00 will also receive two tickets to our annual March dinner dance. Contributors of \$1000.00 will receive additionally a stainless steel inscribed plaque.



Newsbriefs

Flag Ceremony Heralds 4th at Carlen

This was not your usual 4th of July at Camp Carlen. No, this was the 4th of July which marked the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty and her glorious rededication. This was the 4th of July marking the 75th anniversary of Owaspippe. This 4th of July celebration needed to be special so Jim Gallagher, Carlen director, decided upon a flag retreat ceremony outside the Bahooka dining hall. He would fire the Owaspippe's "Big Bear" cannon. To mark the celebration of America's freedom from England, Jim invited international scout Jane O'Brien from Great Britain to the ceremony. She always wanted to see a 4th of July celebration.

Gallagher gathered the entire camp by the flagpole, all in readiness for the solemn ceremony. The staff prepared Big Bear for her big blast. Attention turned from the flag pole. First fire the cannon, then lower the flag. "Bam," the cannon sounded in a cloud of smoke. Gallagher smiled, then felt a little scout tap his arm. "Mr. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher."

"Sure, son."

"Mr. Gallagher!"

Gallagher glanced toward the pole. The flag was being lowered, too soon, without commands. "Look out." No time to sing "America the Beautiful," Gallagher thought as the flag pole hurried toward the ground.

"Don't let it hit the ground," a patriotic scout urged. At that, several staff alertly rushed toward the falling pole. Later Gallagher reflected on the beauty of the ceremony. "What could be more fitting than this reenactment of Iwo Jima."

Nominations Opened: Four Positions to be Filled in March

Four positions are open on the Board of Directors this year, three carrying a three-year term, one carrying a one-year term. Completing their terms in office are Pat Monahan, Mike Schlager and Joe Sener. Also scheduled for election is the position presently filled by Jack Coussens, which was vacated by Tom Janiak. Joe Sener is

coordinating the nominations committee this year, and he encourages all members to take a moment in the next few weeks to nominate in writing a member of the OSA for a position on the Board. The association continues to grow, and it needs strong, dedicated leadership. Our members must help us to find the most able members of our association through their nominations.

Nominees must be currently registered and have served on the Owaspippe staff for two years. In addition to a sincere interest in Owaspippe and the OSA, candidates must be willing to commit significant amounts of time to the service of our membership. In a special February newsletter, our members will review resumes of nominees. Registered members may vote for candidates at the March annual meeting or by absentee ballot, which will be enclosed with our newsletter.

Owaspippe Weathers Worst Storm in Memory

On September 10 and 11, Owaspippe experienced one of the heaviest rainfalls in many, many years. Estimates place the rainfall at almost fifteen inches in thirty-six hours. While Owaspippe suffered only minor damage from the fierce storms, the surrounding area was much less fortunate.

Most affected was the town of Hart, which saw 80 to 100 feet of its damn give out, sending a cascading surge of water down the Pentwater River. The northbound bridge of U.S. 31 collapsed, and the southbound bridge was seriously undermined. The damages in Hart alone exceed 1.3 million. Travellers on 31 are now routed through Hart on Old 31. The damn in White Cloud on the White River also collapsed, flooding cottages in Hesperia and sending torrents of water all the way to White Lake.

At Owaspippe, quick action by the rangers averted serious problems. Realizing during the storm that too much water was overflowing the Kopp damn and then whirlpooling in the Russell Road culverts, the rangers raised the level of Lake Wolverine by adding boards to the damn. Still, Owaspippe suffered some damage. Landscaping by the doctor's cabin was washed away, and the cabin experienced some minor water damage. Also, several hundred feet of gas line in Staff Village were exposed in the storms. These pipes were originally buried twelve inches below ground.

The rangers' largest concern was the Kopp Dam itself, which is already being undermined by water erosion. During the summer, the dam was inspected by representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, who determined that the dam must be repaired or replaced very soon. During this mighty storm, however, the dam held nicely.

Garage Sale Nets \$340. Items for Sale

In September, Ron and Marilyn Kulak organized a second OSA garage sale. Their thanks go out to the following members and families for their help or donations at the event: Behnke, Chlebek, Nagel, Judd, Liden, Kulak,

Monahan, Brown, Studaven, Wolff-Klammer, Young, and Niziol. They have also announces that the following selective items are for sale to OSA members:

Baby crib with mattress @ \$40
Sears 18 btu air conditioner @ \$50
14-in auto rims @ 20
Lloyd's adding machine with tape @ \$15
2 machine light fixtures @ \$20
Twin bed @ \$35
Welding torch kit @ \$15

Call Ron or Marilyn at 429-5596 if you have any interest in these items.

The Galloping Grapevine

The Galloping Grapevine

POPULATION EXPLOSION... Our membership continues to be quite prolific. The following is a synopsis of current and projected family expansion.

DOUBLE TROUBLE... **Mike and Carolyn Schlagel** recently had twins. **Elizabeth Rose** and **Jonathan Richard** were born on September 6, weighing in at 5lbs. 1 oz. and 6 lbs. 5 oz. respectively.

INTRODUCING... **John Allen Michael Maluta**, born on August 17, 8 lbs. 2 oz. Congratulations to his proud parents, **John and Chris Maluta**.

ALSO INTRODUCING... **William Allen Murphy**, born on September 22, 8 lbs. 15 oz. Best Wishes to his proud parents, **Kevin and Beth Murphy**.

FUTURE STAFFERS IN THE MAKING... Expecting their first in October are **Mike and Chris Drazba**. Expecting their first this Fall are **Judy and Brock Bigsby**. Expecting their second in the Spring are **Rusty and Carol Martino**. And finally, expecting their third in the Spring are **Linda and Pat Monahan**. Whew!

50 YEARS... Congratulations to **Bud and Bee Liden** who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on August 15. Their partnership is a model of success. The Lidens reside in La Grange Park.

AN OWASIPPE SCULPTOR... **Jim Richerson**, who has recently been a tremendous help to Owasppe by serving on the trails committee, excels also in his everyday life by producing some interesting sculptures. Jim's most recent presentation, "Relief" was exhibited from August 17 through October 10 at Three Illinois Center. Back in 1977, with the help of Bob Pagels, Jim erected "A Fixed Moment" behind Sunset Point overlooking the Wolverine Channel. It still stands today!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY... Kudos to **Owasippe Lodge Order of the Arrow** on the celebration of their 65th year of service to the Chicago Area Council. A celebration will occur at their annual banquet on December 30 at The Diplomat, 5600 W. Fullerton, Chicago.

CYCLE-MANIA... On September 28, five OSA members participated in the Fall Classic, "The Apple Cider Century," in Three Oaks Michigan. The ACC is a 5,000 person bike tour upon which one selects a 25, 50, 75 or 100 mile route. Riders were **Gale Stoffregan** (100), **Gina Woods** (75), **Mark Behnke** (75), **Ron Kulak** (75) and **Chuck Nagel** (50). Absent from this year's event was **Frank Chlebek**, who as a professional advisor to the O/A Lodge of Calumet Council was attending the Section 3A Conclave at Joliet Junior College.

FLYING THE FRIENDLY SKIES... **Chauncey Niziol** has accepted a position as mortgage manager for the United

Airlines Credit Union. Chauncey is beginning a mortgage program for the 120,000 employee credit union, which manages more than one billion, 400 million dollars. Good Luck, Chauncey in your new position.

REQUIEM FOR A SCOUTER... Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of **Joseph Graczyk** on his recent passing. Joe was a long-time scoutmaster of Marquette Trail and the old Stockyard Districts, having served as

scoutmaster of troop 494 and as an active Arrowman. He will long be remembered for his avid support of our Association and his love for Owaspippe.

STAFF INTERVIEWS... will be held at the scout office, 730 W. Lake on Saturday, December 20 and Saturday, December 27. Applications are available at the scout office, 559-0990. Bill Morrison is particularly interested in senior staff candidates and staff apprentice candidates.

Summer Membership Drive Reaches New Heights

Under the leadership of Mike Finnegan, membership chairman, and Bill Schaefer, one of his committee members, the OSA enjoyed the most successful summer membership drive in its history. Thirty-one new members have joined the OSA since July 1st. To this list must be added two new life members, John Brown and Jack Garner. In this newsletter, we'll introduce some of our new members. You'll meet others in subsequent issues.

Marv Huffman is presently a ranger at Owaspippe, where he has worked for three years. Marv lives at Owaspippe with Carol, his wife, and his two children. Marv has a rich camp background. His father was a Scout camp ranger, and Marv grew up in a boy scout camp. **Kent Merel** and his son **Mark**, formerly from Troop 898, have also joined the OSA. Kent has served in all leadership positions in his troop during a twenty year career in scouting. He now owns an auto parts business. Mark, an eagle scout, is now scoutmaster of troop 917. He and his wife, Crystal, whom he met through the exploring program, are the parents of Jason, who is seventeen months old and a future staff man at Owaspippe.

Bruce Thompson, a member of the '66 and '67 Beard staffs is also a new member of the OSA. Bruce and his two children participated in the 75th anniversary celebration. Also new members are **Bob Demma** and **Ken Peary**. Bob is scoutmaster of troop 495. He is employed as Chief Engineer by T.B.Z. Realty Corporation. Bob's troop will celebrate its 50th year at Owaspippe in 1990. Ken is an eagle scout and has achieved the brotherhood rank in the Order of the Arrow. Ken is currently employed as a carpenter's apprentice by D. R. Acoustics.

Tom Petrauskas joins Owaspippe after two years on the Owaspippe staff. Tom worked at Blackhawk in 1982 and in 1986 served as the waterfront director at Camp Wolverine. Tom joins his brothers John and Tony as staff members in the OSA. Also a new member is **Ron Spyrnal**, from Troop 773. Ron and his son Thad, a life scout, attended Camp Wolverine this summer. His wife Audrey and their daughter, Susan, enjoyed the activities of Camp Reneker. Another new member is **Art Olson**, whose experience at Owaspippe dates back to 1960 at Camp West. Art resides in Portage, Indiana with his wife Angie, his daughter, Jennifer, and son Jeff, who served as an apprentice and an associate in '82 and '83 respectively. Art is employed as a printer in Chicago. The summer of '86 will long be remembered as a banner year for membership in the OSA.

Have They Changed? Vibrations Interviews Four '86 Staff Members

Who's on staff at Owaspippe in 1986? What do they like about the place? Where do they go on their days off? What would they like to change about Owaspippe? How much money did they make at Owaspippe in their first three years? If they had to miss a meal, which one would it be? We wanted to know the answers to these burning questions so the *Vibrations* assigned our on-site reporter Chris Drazba to talk with a few present staff members.

Diane Posen, age 17, from the north side of Chicago recently graduated from Resurrection High School and plans to attend Oakton Community College this fall. A member of the family camp staff for three years, she has worked as a trading post manager, a craft instructor, and in '86 the 11-and-up Age Group Leader. She joined the staff because she remembered how terrific the staff was during her 13 years as a camper at Family Camp. She likes Owaspippe Lake most, and on her days off goes to the Beach, Pleasure Island and Rockford, Michigan. During her first three years at Owaspippe, she earned \$660. When asked what she would like to change about

Owasippe, she asked for "more pay." She also wants a bigger staff cabin. She passes, she says, on the "baked chicken and pork rib sandwiches."

Kevin Joyce, also 17, lives in Naperville, where he attends Naperville Central High School. On staff for 4 years, Kevin has served as an apprentice, an associate nature director, and an assistant nature director. A camper for 4 seasons, Kevin helped to build the pier to the nature center at Robert Crown, and Crown is his favorite place to hang out. Not there for the money, Kevin has earned \$355 in his 4 seasons. Like Diane, he also hopes for better living conditions at Owasippe. His least favorite meal: "It's got to be oatmeal."

Mike Romcoe, age 17, is from Chicago's south side, where he attends Curie High school. On staff for three years, Mike has been an apprentice, a trading post aide, and this summer a wrangler. As one might expect, Mike thinks Diamond "O" Ranch is the best place at Owasippe. What does he like about OSR? "I like the friends you make best. I also enjoy the good and the bad; you always learn from them." On days off he heads for Meinert Park, staff beach, or town. Sometimes, he just stays in bed. Mike camped at Owasippe for 5 years and has vivid memories of "bugs, mosquitoes, skunks, swimming and

campfires." He's earned \$450, and like the others wants better living conditions, perhaps a "dormitory." About the food: "Goulash is the worst, although there's a few more I could miss."

Jim "Howie" Howicz, age 19, attends the the University of Chicago. Now in his fifth year on staff, Jim has served as an apprentice, a scoutcraft aide, a nature director, and a commissioner. A camper for 3 years, Jim remembers the Blackhawk dining hall most, and his favorite place on the reservation is Reed's Bridge by Paradise Valley. On days off, he says, "I hit the beach." During his first three years he earned \$560. He also wants better staff housing. Least favorite food: "The yellow meal, macaroni and cheese."

Have they changed much? Like those before them, they sure don't come for the money. Their days off also don't seem much different than those of earlier staffs. And like them, they can't agree upon their least favorite meals. They all agree on one thing, though. Owasippe needs some new staff housing, perhaps a future OSA project?

Rambo In the Bush

by Bill Schaefer

The fifth period blahs had just set in. All was quiet and peaceful at Ole Owasippe. The luster of a new camping season—the 75th at that—had long since faded. The bouncy beat of the camp program had all but stopped—the same routine, week in and week out. The staff searched for excitement. Rambo to the rescue!

With the roar of a big engine and a cloud of sandy dust, a car suddenly screeched into the parking lot at Ad Center. The staff rushed from the building to see a tall sheriff, his impeccable uniform complete with mirror sun glasses, emerging from his flashing vehicle. Hurrying toward the crowd, the officer demanded, "Who's in charge here?"

"I am, sir," Tom Cowley responded, ever the responsible professional scouter.

"Get in the car! How do you get to this Wolverine place?"

"You go that way, sir."

5, 30, 60, 90 m. p. h. Seventeen seconds from Ad Center to the Wolverine North. "Even staff will have trouble beating this record," mutters Cowley. Billows of sand filter through the screens of the venerable lodge. Novice scout leaders burst out the rear door, toward the pool, gasping for air. Hardened old timers hang in there, drag on their smokes, and keep the poker game alive, glancing momentarily at the big stud with the gun.

Bill Schaefer, thinking Cowley and his guest are just foolin' around, spread eagles himself against the lodge exterior, right next to the public telephone. "Don't shoot," Schaefer pleads, "I give up."

"Who's this?" the unfriendly copper demands.

T. C. squirms. "This is the camp director. He's in charge here."

"May I help you, sir?" Schaefer asks.

"Is this the camp telephone?"

"Yes, sir."

(continued on page 14)

Picture Time



The gallery watches the baseball game: twenty-five or so on a side isn't unusual.



Pat Monahan coordinates the children's water balloon toss.



OSA "Dinosaurs" pause for a photo during staff week celebration at Camp Blackhawk.



Volleyball contest shows staff spirit.



Children rest long enough to color their "goodie bags."

I Don't Ever Want to Be A Trucker

by Pat Monahan

I never really understood why trucking has always fascinated staff members at Owaspippe. I always felt dwarfed when I entered the cab of an Owaspippe stake truck. I felt like Goldilocks must have felt when she sat in Papa Bear's chair: I worried that my feet wouldn't touch the floor. I was sure that I would end up peering out through the steering wheel, which I could barely get my arms around. Other staff members, however, couldn't wait to get a foot on an Owaspippe gas peddle. If truckers paused at a latrine, they would jump in behind the wheel and dream.

Part of their fascination derives, I'm sure, from the restrictions which are placed on non-drivers. Only sanctioned drivers can get behind the wheel, and such a privilege must therefore mean something. Even camp directors can't drive trucks, so truckers are important people. A few truckers apparently believed this reasoning also. Like teamsters from the city, they were too important to load floor boards.

I wonder how many staff members have learned to drive a truck at Owaspippe. Perhaps I should ask how many have learned to drive at camp. Each year a trucker admits during staff week that he has just gotten his license. Though most know how to drive, many have never driven a stick shift before camp. Bob Halston, who for many years has supervised truckers, must at times feel like he's running a driving school.

The first Owaspippe truck I ever drove was the baby dump, which had survived an embarrassing trip down the hill at Hiawatha Beach two years before. George Des Laurier, on a garbage run, had seen one can on the beach. Too far to walk, he hurtled the dump down toward the water. Going down was easy; coming up impossible, though George worked at it the better part of an afternoon. Shortly after I drove this memorable vehicle, it died, in the hands of Ron Schwilk in the valley behind food prep. I think we were taking a short cut from the North ranges.

I have always considered truckers among the most interesting people at Owaspippe. Each has a different set of unusual behaviors. None are ordinary. Denny Kline was the first trucker I met at Owaspippe. Like a lot of truckers, he was not a scout. He had drifted into Owaspippe because a friend worked on the Stuart staff. He wore a pair of faded blue jeans and always a white T-shirt, his Lucky Strikes rolled up under the sleeve. He was, I learned later, in full trucker's uniform.

In 1969, I met Steve Odachowski, who had somehow earned the name Scum Dog. Scoutmasters at Stuart loved his nickname. As his truck roared toward the dining hall, they would announce, "Here comes Scum Dog with the food." Scum Dog had his finest moment when he became the center of the Mung God ceremony. No one ate ham salad in 1969, no one, and staff scorned it, calling it "mung." Steve suggested we begin a ritual and dedicate each plate of mong to a Mung God. And so a ceremony began, with a parade each Tuesday beginning at the front entrance. With trumpets and fanfare, our ham salad arrived. Chuck Rock, then food prep director, became our Mung God, and scouts consumed ham salad by the ton. At summer's end, Chuck was sending four times the amount of ham salad to Stuart than to other camps. Scum Dog smiled on all that he had created.

The ultimate trucker, of course, is my friend Tiny. He was the trucker, a legend. The driver of the garbage truck, no less, Tiny became the celebrated hero in every camp. Scouts raced after his truck, screaming "Tiny," "Tiny," "Tiny." In dining halls, he was greeted with cheers. Along with his good nature, Tiny always brought the news. One soon learned that Tiny knew the goings-on in each camp and at the Ad Center. If somebody got hurt, Tiny knew how badly. If somebody got fired, Tiny knew why. The trucker grapevine was among the strongest at Owaspippe, and Tiny was at its center. Riding shotgun with Tiny was a privilege. Young staff often begged to load his garbage truck for him. Tiny moved trucking at Owaspippe to a new level.

I lost my driving privileges once when I ran Will Teale and Orville Hawk off the road (I was driving an army jeep, and it was my first jeep ride). My insecurity about Owaspippe trucks probably began then. When I later regained my driving privileges (Will needed someone to drive to Chicago, and I was available), I drove, but I just didn't feel comfortable. The side mirrors on stake trucks had grown larger, like giant wings spreading out toward the trees. I was sure that the bumpers were soft like cotton, and certain that the fenders would twist in or out at the slightest wink of an eye.

Today, I'm sure that others have these fears also, for Owaspippe trees surprise the very best drivers. So, I can finally say it. I don't ever want to be a trucker at Owaspippe. At Fix-it weekends now I avoid all driving responsibilities. Others yearn for the driver's seat, and I let them hurry for the keys. I enjoy being a passenger.

(continued from page 13)

Rambo in the Bush

"Some little girl called the operator and said she's in trouble at Camp Wolverine. She said some guy is trying to kill her. He's gonna shoot her head off, she says. You don't got any kind of guns here, do ya?"

"Well, we do have eight rifles. They're shooting them right now on the rifle range."

"Rifle Range! This is a boy scout camp, isn't it? You ain't got any little girls here do you, Mr. Schaefer?"

"Well, a bunch of girls from our family camp went down to the ranges to shoot a while ago."

"Are there any men or boys there too?"

"Probably both by now. Girls attract attention in a boy scout camp."

"Get in," Rambo shouts to Cowley. Slam. Slam. A quick reverse pivot and the Rambomobile steams toward the North fire bowl.

Cowley scrambles through his keys, desperately searching for the one that opens Marv Huffman's famous cable across the sand road. "Ah, here it is." But too late, Rambo to the rescue! To hell with cables, to hell with locks, to hell with trees, shrubs, logs, and ditches, the Rambo machine slows down for nothing. Crashing through the forest, it outflanks the enemy line while Cowley's bald head dents the vehicle roof like a ballpean hammer. Back on track, the Rambomobile defies all comers—oncoming stake-trucks, Tonka toy jeeps, mothers and tots in swim suits—as it storms past Hillcrest toward its attack area.

Wheelies on the left turn through the sand-box road heading into the ranges. Suddenly a fork in the two track. Venturing into the uncharted wilderness from his Ad Center castle for the first time this year, Cowley shouts, "Right, I think."

Little Robin Hoods stare in amazement at the arrowproof war machine and its mad driver. "The guns are over there. I can hear 'em," cries Rambo.

"We've gotta go back to the fork," Cowley urges.

Not Rambo. What's a dozen check damns down a mountainside? Bam, Bam, Bam, Bam . . . goes the hammer into the rooftop. A band of little girls comes into

focus. "I see 'em," Rambo screams gleefully, "And that's the rifle range!" He leaps from the car with his hand upon his holster. "Drop your weapons," he screams to a platoon of green grubbies crawling on their bellies under the barbed wire.

Ex-marine Jerry Lutz, field sports director, undaunted by Rambo's surprise attack, commands his troop, "Cease Fire."

"But I got two bullets left," insists one young warrior, turning his 22 away from the paper targets. Rambo fingers his pearl handle.

"Put down your rifle *now*," Lutz commands.

* * * * *

"Anybody see a little girl using the outside phone," Schaefer asks a mile away.

"No," offers Bill Hoppe, in the lodge to grab some "Safety Afloat" cards. "But a while ago I walked past two little scouts by the phone. One was giggling while the other one talked into the phone like a girl. I couldn't tell what he was saying. Why?"

"Ohhh, nothing. You better get back to the pool."

Calendar of Upcoming OSA Events

November 28
Pizza Night
Stempien VFW
Chicago

December 14
Children's Christmas Party
Camp Kiwanis

March 7
Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance
Giannotti's Banquet Hall
Forest Park





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